

COUNTRY

East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

25X1

25X1

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 25 March 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. The following observations were made at Koethen airfield between 13 and 25 February 1953:

25X1

13 February. Between 3 and 3:20 p.m., no air activity was observed at the field. There was dull thawing weather. Nine MiG-15s were parked in front of the hangars.

25X1

16 February. At 1:15 p.m., there was no air activity at the field. The weather was clear.

18 February. At 2:45 p.m., there was air activity. The weather was clear. two planes which took off. Ten MiG-15s were parked in about the middle of the field.

19 February. Between 4 and 5 p.m., there was no air activity in hazy weather. At 5 p.m., were aloft.

25X1

20 February. Between 2:30 and 3:10 p.m., eight take-offs were made by MiG-15s in clear weather. After landing, the planes taxied to the take-off point and took off another time without refueling. Take-offs were also made in elements of two during the intensive air activity.

21 February. Between 3:45 and 4:30 p.m., some take-offs were made. There were strong winds.

25X1

23 February. This was the Day of the Red Army. Between 2:30 and 3:45 p.m., no air activity or other military activity was observed at the field.

25 February. Twelve MiG-15s were parked in front of the hangars, at 4:15 p.m. The weather was good with a slight haze.

2. Two radar sets, one with a seven-sectional directional aerial, were observed in the area of the hangars at the field. On 18 February, two radio trucks, a large and a small one, were parked at the field. The larger radio truck had windows, several rod antennas, and a trailer, probably a generator.

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

891

SECRET

-2-

25X1

3. Between 14 and 25 February, the shrapnelproof aircraft revetments were closed with masonry up to a height of 1.5 meter. Work began at the rear walls. Auxiliary taxiways, apparently covered with runway matting radiated from the shrapnelproof aircraft revetments to the taxiway. ³
4. During air activity, two sentries guarded the gap in the fence around the field. On 20 February, a MiG-15 [] approached for landing at such a low level that it almost touched a truck.

25X1

5. In mid-February, [] a 76-mm AA gun was located in the 37-mm AA gun emplacement. ⁴

25X1

6. The following air activity was observed at the field between 17 and 21 February:

25X1

17 February. Between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., air activity was observed at the field. There was a closed cloud base at an altitude of about 1,000 meters and good visibility.

18 February. Between 9 and 10:30 a.m., local flights were made by single-engine planes. The sky was overcast at an altitude of about 200 meters and visibility was limited to 1 km.

19 February. Between 2 and 3:30 p.m., air activity was performed by MiG-15s with auxiliary fuel tanks. The planes took off and landed individually. There was a closed cloud base and a visibility of at least 3 km.

20/21 February. During the night from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m., there was air activity by MiG-15s. The weather was very good. The runway lights were switched on only during the take-offs and landings. No landing searchlights were observed.

21 February. Between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., MiG-15s with auxiliary fuel tanks practiced flying. The sky was overcast.

UNCODED

22 to 24 February. No air activity was observed.

7. Two new radar sets were observed in the northeastern corner of the field, about 200 meters west of the Koethen-Baasdorf road, for some days. ²

8. Trucks [] were observed entering and leaving the field.

25X1

9. Between 10 a.m. and 2:50 p.m. on 28 February, no air activity was observed at the field. Truck [] moved to the field.

25X1

1. Comment. Koethen airfield is occupied by two fighter regiments. One of the two regiments is assigned to the division in Merseburg-Altenburg, while the assignment of the other regiment has not been determined. It is believed that the second regiment is directly subordinate to the Twenty-Fourth Air Army.

2. Comment. [] this radar station for the first time on 12 February 1953. [] the radar station consists of a Dumbo type set and an SCR-6C2 type set.

25X1

SECRET

SECRET,

-3-

25X1

3. ☐ Comment. The shrapnelproof aircraft revetments are probably filled up with concrete slabs of which a total of about 350,000 pieces were ordered at various cement plants in the Soviet Zone of Germany. During the preceding months, shipments with such slabs were continuously observed arriving at the airfields in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

25X1

4. ☐ Comment. The presence of an AA gun emplacement on the southern edge of the field is known. According to available information, the emplacement is occupied by six 37-mm AA guns.

25X1

SECRET,